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To: Dabbs, Paul
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Comment subject matter:

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Description:

Thank you for incorporating so much public involvement in this plan. Several general comments: at this point in California's development and history, the "less resource intensive" alternatives are preferable. We have lost so much habitat and reduced human quality of life through water development and interbasin transports. Laws that tie water supply to decisions about land management are way overdue. Surface storage, through reservoir enlargement or construction, has gone too far and, is inconsistent with forging a sustainable future. It's time to step away from such old patterns.

Water restored to the environment is just that...restoration, recognizing that too much was taken away in the past. Real, all-out efforts at wise use of water through conservation should be the central approach now. Starting with basic water metering where it still doesn't happen, on through low flush toilets, waterless urinals, etc. Regarding desalination...please beef up the discussion about environmental consequences from return of brine wastes to coastline waters. If desalination becomes widely practiced, those waste issues will be enormous.

Water pollution from non-point sources seems to be far more insidious than most Californians realize. The studies that have identified a soup of chemicals, the product of modern lifestyles emerging in water bodies, need to be expanded, so that monitoring is at levels allowing meaningful policy-making.

I know that the plan has to work within the existing laws and requirements, but it should also be the place to call for legislative change needed to finally manage groundwater resources the same as surface water...the separation of the two is a historic anomaly with no basis in science.

Thanks very much.

David Carle, author of "Introduction to Water in California" and "Water and the California Dream."